

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Monday, August 9, 2010
Open Session - 6:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting

Ron Cervasio, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order on Monday, August 9, 2010 at 7:00pm.

a. Roll Call

In attendance for this meeting: Ron Cervasio, Chair, Cindy Bernard, excused, Dennis Chretien, member, Davida Irving, Principal / Superintendent, Greg Piccirilli, legal counsel and Mrs. McCullough, FSC secretary.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

2. Requests to Use School Facilities

There were no requests to use the school building.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Minutes of June 22, 2010 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

4. Approval of Warrants

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Warrant dated July 13, 2010 in the amount of \$165,580.53. Motion passed. Vote – 2-0-0.

5. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Transportation

The Transportation decision to have First Student handle all transportation, Special Education State-Wide and In-District, had been tabled from the June 22, 2010 meeting. The decision to have First Student handle the In-District transportation would eliminate one bus driver and one bus monitor and save the district \$48,000. First Student is handling the Out-of-District transportation due to a state mandate. The ESP union was represented by, Patrick Crowley, who is the Assistant Executive Director of NEARI. He stated there was a bargaining agreement in place to June of 2012. He stated several scenarios that the union feels backs up their reasons not to have First Student handled the 'in-district' transportation as follows:

- a. Recognition clause – if a position is currently in the bargaining unit, by mutual agreement it remains in the bargaining unit.
- b. Article #4 – grievance procedure – three ways a matter can be taken to arbitration – a violation, miss-interpretation, and inequitable application.
- c. Article #6 – seniority – if a position is filled then that position is included under the bargaining unit.

The Union stated that financial considerations could not be the sole factor for the elimination of these positions in place of educational needs. The School Committee stated that this decision was financial and very difficult. Discussion continued.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to have all of the special education transportation go through the state department of education. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

b. Budget 2010-2011

At the Superintendent's request, Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, reported on the remaining surplus and the new year's budget.

The Superintendent reported to the School Committee that she was moving the line item for out-of-district special education tuition of \$45,000 from that line item into the salary line item of .5 special education teacher. Three students that were tuitioned out-of-district will be accommodated here at Paine School for the 2010-2011 school year and there will be a need for a .5 special education teacher.

6. New business (for discussion/action)

a. School Improvement Plan –

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the School Improvement Plan. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

b. Personnel – recalls & lay-offs –

Dr. Irving explained to the School Committee the first grade needed three classes, and three teachers, which leaves a vacant 1.0 special education teacher. She further explained the need for another .5 special education position due to the out-of-district students who will be accommodated at Paine school. On the Superintendent's recommendation the School Committee called back Mrs. Nancy O'Hare to a .5 special education teacher position and Mrs. Rebecca Sullivan to a 1.0 special education teacher position, on a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio. Mr. Chretien amended his motion to include the approval of a .5 special education position. Mr. Cervasio asked the Business Manager to apply all costs for this .5 special education position along with all future pension costs. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0. The position of .5 special education teacher was approved first and then the main motion which is the re-calls was approved second.

With regret the Superintendent recommended the following lay-offs based on the School Committee's decision to go with First Student for all of the school's special education transportation:

Beverly Crum – Bus Monitor on special education mini bus.

Carol Shippee – Bus Monitor on special education mini bus.

Cheryl Wright – Bus Driver on special education mini bus.

Mr. Chretien so moved the recommendation of the Superintendent with Mr. Cervasio seconding. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

7. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence –

A request from Mr. and Mrs. Soares to home school their son, Jacob Soares, grade 1 for the 2010-2011 was received as correspondence and was approved on a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

b. Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Irving requested the School Committee approve the need to go out to bid for a new intercom system which was approved for \$10,000 through the Town's Capital Expense. Mr. Chretien made the motion to approve with Mr. Cervasio seconding. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

Dr. Irving reported that Karen Seitler was accepted into the 'Aspiring Principal' program and that Dr. Irving is her mentor. She also reported that the painting is continuing in the hallways and should be completed before the opening of school. The custodial staff is on course with the cleaning and prep for the opening of school. The Playground grass has been seeded but will need to be set for a year before there can be activity. Dr. Irving reported she would be on sick leave until the end of the week.

c. Public Comment –

Someone asked if some of the murals would be painted over.

Someone asked if Pluto could be painted over.

Someone asked if the entire school was being painted. Dr. Irving informed them that only the hallways were being painted at this time.

d. Future Agenda Items –

Mr. Chretien – Housing aid for Capitol reimbursements, find out about getting the reimbursement from the Town for the painting and the grass seeding.

Mr. Magner – update the School Committee on the School Support Visit.

Mr. Cervasio – report back to the Committee on Potential Litigation – Executive Session.

Mr. Cervasio – Regional Transportation Reimbursement.

8. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a (1) Personnel.

Mr. Chretien made a motion to table the Executive Session, Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee adjourned at 7:35pm. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

Respectfully submitted

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee